

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 115397 TOSEC 040374
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DRAFTED BY D:DLAMB
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 115397 TOSEC 040374

NODIS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT:EVENING READING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THURSDAY'S EVENING READING:

1. ARMS TRANSFER POLICY. THE TEXT OF YOUR STATEMENT ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER POLICY WAS SENT TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS THIS AFTERNOON. EMBASSIES IN COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAVE SUPPLY RELATIONSHIPS WERE INSTRUCTED TO INFORM THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS PROMPTLY OF THE NATURE OF THE NEW POLICY. WE PROVIDED KEY EMBASSIES WITH GUIDANCE ON MATTERS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THEIR RESPECTIVE HOST GOVERNMENTS.

2. NIXON LETTER. WE TOLD THE VIETNAMESE TODAY IN PARIS THAT THE NIXON LETTER TO LESTER WOLFF WAS NOT RELATED TO THE NORMALIZATION NEGOTIATIONS, AND WE DOWNPLAYED THE SECRET

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STORY IN TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING. THE TIMING AND CONTENT OF MR. NIXON'S LETTER TO WOLFF SEEMS TO BE PART OF HIS EFFORT TO REGAIN A MEASURE OF PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE.

3. TODMAN TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN RETURNED THIS WEEK FROM A QUICK SWING THROUGH LATIN AMERICA. IN COLOMBIA, PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN

PRESSED FOR THE HELICOPTERS WHICH WE PROMISED HIM IN 1975 UNDER OUR NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, BUT WHICH WE ARE HESITANT TO DELIVER BECAUSE OF REPORTED NARCOTICS-RELATED CORRUPTION IN THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT. LOPEZ GENERALLY SUPPORTS OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY BUT WARNED THAT WE SHOULD NOT TRY TO BE THE "WORLD'S MORAL POLICEMAN" HE URGES THAT WE INTERNATIONALIZE THE EFFORT (WHICH OF COURSE WE ARE TRYING TO DO). COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS PRESSED THEIR VIEW THAT WE SHOULD GIVE SPECIAL PREFERENCES TO LATIN AMERICAN GOODS TO OFFSET THE PREFERENCES THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY EXTENDS TO FORMER EUROPEAN COLONIES.

IN VENEZUELA, PRESIDENT PEREZ, LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS FORTHCOMING STATE VISIT, IS ANXIOUS TO COOPERATE WITH US IN ALL AREAS AND TO TAKE A STRONG STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE VENEZUELAN STRESSED THAT THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS IS THE REMOVAL OF VENEZUELA (AND ECUADOR) FROM THE LIST OF OPEC COUNTRIES EXCLUDED FROM OUR SYSTEM OF GENERALIZED TRADE PREFERENCES.

TODMAN TALKED WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA OF ARGENTINA WHO WAS ALSO VISITING VENEZUELA. VIDELA SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION AND DID NOT ARGUE WITH ITS IMPORTANCE, BUT THAT ARGENTINA JUST COULD NOT MEET THE HIGHEST STANDARDS UNTIL IT WINS THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM. VIDELA ASKED FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ARGENTINA'S DIFFICULTIES.

FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA STRESSED THAT BRAZIL ATTACHES
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GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED WITH THE UNITED STATES IN 1976. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT AMBIGUITY ON ITS FUTURE WOULD NOT ONLY HINDER BILATERAL PROBLEM-SOLVING, BUT COULD LEAD TO A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN U.S.-BRAZIL RELATIONS. CY WILL BE MEETING WITH SILVEIRA NEXT WEEK DURING THE CIEC MEETING AND WILL TRY TO PUT HIS DOUBTS TO REST ON THIS SCORE. ALTHOUGH NOT DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY WITH TODMAN, THE Z A ISSUE REMAINS OF PRIMARY CONCERN TO THE BRAZILIANS.

BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT BANZER AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PROMISED TO SPEED UP ADJUDICATION OF THE CASES OF AMERICANS HELD ON NARCOTICS CHARGES. BASED ON OUR PLEDGE OF ASSISTANCE, THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOW FULLY COMMITTED TO A PROGRAM OF CROP SUBSTITUTION FOR THE COCAINE-SOURCE COCA NOW PRODUCED THERE.

4. JAPANESE AID POLICY. EMBASSY TOKYO REPORTS THAT

JAPAN WILL INCREASE ITS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BUDGET TO ALMOST \$2 BILLION IN FISCAL 1977, UP 21.7 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR. THE BULK OF THE INCREASE WILL GO TO MULTILATERAL AGENCIES. ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS LAG INCREASINGLY BEHIND BUDGET LEVELS, HOWEVER, CAUSING JAPAN TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO ACCELERATE USE OF ITS AID AS WELL.

JAPAN'S WEALTH, NORTH-SOUTH PRESSURES, AND PRODDING FROM TRADING PARTNERS ARE GRADUALLY LOOSENING JAPAN'S TRADITIONALLY TIGHT PURSE STRINGS. FUKUDA REPORTEDLY EVEN CONSIDERED ANNOUNCING A DOUBLING OF AID OVER FIVE YEARS AT THE SUMMIT. IF FUKUDA AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTINUE TO WIN OUT OVER THE FINANCE MINISTRY AND ITS ALLIES, MARKED IMPROVEMENTS IN JAPAN'S AID BUDGET AND DISBURSEMENT LEVELS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS WILL RESULT.

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5. PANAMA CANAL. IN DISCUSSIONS YESTERDAY AND TODAY, THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS INDICATED ACCEPTANCE, IN PRINCIPLE, OF A TREATY PROVISION UNDER WHICH BOTH PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD JOINTLY MAINTAIN THE NEUTRALITY OF THE CANAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED RULES. THE NEGOTIATORS ALSO INDICATED AN AWARENESS OF THE U.S. UNDERSTANDING THAT NEUTRALITY PROVISIONS WOULD APPLY TO THREATS TO THE CANAL ORIGINATING FROM WITHIN PANAMA AS WELL AS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. THE TALKS WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW. CHRISTOPHER

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